

Atty. Dkt. No. 048772-1101
(formerly 0009.US00)

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 13 and 22 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

???After amending the claims as set forth above, claims ??? are now pending in this application.

Claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by David King, "Soliciting Virtual Money," Library Journal netConnect Supplement, August 10, 2000 (hereinafter "King"). Further, claims 12 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Embodiments of the present invention relate to a methods and systems for determining a person's interest in certain causes and soliciting donations. In this regard, a person may be asked a question related to one or more causes through a web-based system. Upon receiving a response to the question from the person, additional questions may be asked if it is determined, based on the response, that subsequent questions are necessary to identify one or more causes of interest to the person. Based on the responses, at least one cause of interest to the person is identified, and a donation is solicited based on such identification. Accordingly, independent claim 1 recites "identifying, based on the responses, at least one cause of interest to the person." Independent claims 13 and 22 recite a similar feature.

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King fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of independent claims 1, 13 and 22. The Office Action cites King as disclosing this feature at page 2, lines 40-45. However, the cited disclosure refers to "an online scavenger hunt." The questions asked of the participants is in way intended to determine the participant's interest in any particular cause. Rather, the questions are merely intended to "highlight[] a particular library service or program." The disclosure of King does not, and cannot, identify a cause of interest to the participants. Thus, King neither teaches nor suggests, "identifying, based on the responses, at least one cause of interest to the person."

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 13 and 22 are patentable. Claims 2-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole. Similarly, claims 14-20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 13 and are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1674. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-1674. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1674.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 9, 2006

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